



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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WASHINGTON, D.C.





RULES

AND

CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

SOCIETY

OF THE

SONS OF ST. GEORGE,

Established at Philadelphia,

FOR THE

ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

OF

*Englishmen in Distress*

SURGEON GEN'L'S  
LIBRARY

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PHILADELPHIA:  
PRINTED BY WILLIAM COBBETT,  
OPPOSITE CHRIST CHURCH.

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1797.





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AT A MEETING OF THE  
SOCIETY of the SONS of ST. GEORGE,  
April 23, 1796.

On motion and seconded,

**O**RDERED, That a committee of three be appointed to revise the printed rules of the society, and make such alterations therein as may agree with the additions and amendments since made to the same, and report to the next meeting—When Mr. George Davis, Mr. John Waddington and the secretary were appointed.

At a meeting, &c. July 23, 1796.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting to revise the rules and minutes of the society, and make such alterations therein as may agree with the additions and amendments made to the same, reported, that they had revised the rules and minutes of the society as they at present stand, and having made such alterations and amendments thereto as to them appeared necessary and right consistently therewith, submitted to the consideration of the society a new set of rules and constitutions, which being read were left over for further consideration at the next meeting.

At a meeting, &c. Jan. 23, 1797.

The rules and regulations of the society, as reported by the committee appointed to revise the same, being read and considered were unanimously adopted, and having been carried at three several meetings of the society are recommended to the adoption of the society at their next annual meeting.

At a meeting, &c. April 24, 1797.

The Rules and constitutions of the society, recommended at the last meeting, being read, on motion of Mr. John Vaughan the same were unanimously adopted—also on motion of Mr. Vaughan, John Waddington and George Davis were appointed a committee to procure five hundred copies of the said Rules to be printed, as also a list of the members now living to annex to the same.

From the minutes,

GEORGE DAVIS, Secretary.



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## INTRODUCTION.

WERE we to trace their origin to that primeval pair, with whom the author of nature completed the grand work of the creation, we should find all mankind related to each other. Even at this remote period, when the sons of Adam are dispersed through the world, differing in complexion, customs and manners, the civilized part of his descendents still retain a kind of fraternal affection, and are prompted by humanity and benevolence, to relieve the distresses and solace the sorrows of their *unfortunate fellow mortals*, in whatever clime or country they drew their first breath. Pity, social love, and charity, are *citizens* of the *world*, and extend their benign influences to the whole human race: yet these heaven-born virtues have bounds prescribed to them, as to the radiant lamp of day, which shines with but a feeble beam upon countries remote from its path, while with redoubled vigour, it cheers, enlightens, and enlivens those, more immediately in its presence.

MAN, however boundless are the desires excited in him by benevolence and social affection, is still limited in his abilities and capacity; and though his wishes may incline him to be serviceable to all his fellow-creatures, he soon discovers that he has it in his pow-

er to be of use but to a very few ; conscious of this, he begins with those to whom the ties of blood have more immediately connected him, and widens the circle as far as his abilities will permit. Among the objects which present themselves for his assistance and relief, after his particular relatives and friends, his *countrymen* are his peculiar care. His predilection for them is by no means the effect of narrowness of sentiment, but proceeds from the same laudable motives, which, ever since the establishment of civil society, have induced good citizens, not only *to love*, but if occasion required, *to die* for their country. Policy has ever been made use of to encourage this patriotic benevolence, and, in some states, honours and advantages have been decreed to those, who saved the life of a citizen. Equally praise-worthy with preserving his life, must it be to rescue a fellow-citizen from the iron hands of penury and want ; nay, in some cases perhaps more so, for *death* is often more eligible than a *life of wretchedness*.

MEN of merit are to be found in almost every nation ; but mankind in common prefer the meritorious of their own, to those of any other country. We cannot extend our beneficence universally, and therefore must select the objects of our charity from the general class of mankind, by some rule or other. In forming this rule, we are led to select those of the particular nation from whence we originated, not only from a desire every man has to relieve them, but because ex-

perience teaches us, that to such, persons in distress naturally think of applying for relief.

NATIONAL attachments and prejudices are for the most part idle and unnecessary ; and when they operate so far as to make us injure or despise persons born in a different country from ourselves, they are indeed very reprehensible. But although national distinction should on most occasions be avoided, yet the necessity of *forming* the present society is one proof, that on some occasions it may answer the best purposes. Numbers of Englishmen have arrived in this city, and being disappointed in their expectations, have been reduced to the lowest ebb of distress ; and not knowing where to apply for relief or advice, have sunk into ruin almost unnoticed, when, perhaps, a little good counsel, or a small pecuniary assistance, would have saved them from destruction, and made them useful members of society.

FOR the relief of such melancholy instances of wretchedness, it is thought proper by the subscribers, to form themselves into an association by the name of “ The Society of the Sons of St. George, established  
“ at Philadelphia, for the Advice and Assistance of En-  
“ glishmen in Distress :” and this, not for the purpose of keeping alive any invidious national distinction, which ought particularly to be avoided between the different nations which compose the United States of America, where all the freemen (from wheresoever

they originally migrated) are *brethren, friends* and *countrymen*, but merely that our unfortunate brethren, as well those who are members of the society as otherwise, and especially those *Englishmen*, who are strangers in America, may know where to apply for advice and assistance.

IT is therefore agreed by the subscribers, that they, and each of them will become members of the said society, and be subject to the following *rules* and *regulations* for the conduct and good government thereof.

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RULES AND CONSTITUTIONS

OF THE

SOCIETY

OF THE

SONS OF ST. GEORGE.

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RULE I. *Of the society's NAME, the MEMBERS thereof,  
and the society SEAL.*

THAT this society be called " The Society of  
" the Sons of St. George, established at Philadel-  
phia, for the advice and assistance of Englishmen in dis-  
tress : " and that no person be admitted a member of  
this society in future, unless he be a native of that  
part of Great Britain called England, or unless his fa-  
ther be an Englishman, or unless his grandfather or fa-  
ther had been at any time, or at the time of his appli-  
cation to become a member of this society was, or were,  
members thereof, or unless he be at the time resident  
within the United States of America in the character of  
Ambassador, Minister Plenipotentiary, Envoy, Charge  
des affaires, Consul, or in any other ministerial capacity

from the court of Great Britain or from under its government or authority, in which case it shall not be considered essential to his admission, as a member of this society during his continuance in his office, to what nation he or his ancestor doth or did belong. That the mode of choosing members be by ballot, at a quarterly meeting of the society, a majority of whom shall decide all disputes relative to the conduct and propriety of the electors and election : and no person shall be admitted a member of, or be introduced into the society, unless he be elected by at least three-fourths of the members present at such quarterly meeting ; but no election of members shall be held unless twenty members be present nor unless such member shall have been previously proposed at the last meeting and his name entered upon the minutes of the society ; (except honorary members who may be elected instant) and such new member when chosen, shall, before he receives a certificate of his admission, subscribe the society's rules, and pay into the hands of the treasurer, a sum not less than eight dollars (which sum every member hereafter elected agrees to pay forthwith) and after such payment, he shall receive a certificate of his admission, signed by the treasurer and president, or vice-president, and under the seal of the society. That the members shall be classed into resident and honorary ; the first composed of such as reside in this city, or within ten miles thereof, and the latter of such Englishmen, or sons of Englishmen, or such whose grandfathers or fathers being Englishmen or sons of Englishmen had been members of this society, who being now residents shall be admitted members on presenting the society with a sum not less than ten dollars. And moreover every resident member shall pay quarterly to the treasurer one dollar towards increasing the society's fund. That the seal of the society be agreeably to the following description—A shield bordered with thirteen stars ; St. George slaying the dragon, the eye of providence beaming on him ; on a wreath above, a young Phoenix, rising from the flames—The motto on the upper edge, “ The seal of



“ St. George’s Society, Philadelphia.” Round the bottom edge “ I was a stranger, and ye took me in.” Over the crest—“ Add to brotherly love, charity.”

## II. *Of the OFFICERS of the Society.*

There shall be chosen, by holding up of hands, on the twenty-third day of January in every year after the present, a president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, a committee of eight persons to be called stewards, and a messenger to serve in the several capacities hereafter pointed out, for the year ensuing such their election.

## III. *Of the duty of the PRESIDENT, and the members with respect to him.*

The president shall preserve good order and decency at all meetings of the society; regulate the debates, and, in case of an equality of voices or votes on any contested matter, shall finally decide the same; but shall not otherwise interfere further than for the regulation of the disputes, and preserving good order. He shall also preside at all entertainments and meetings of the society; and shall be treated by all the members with the greatest deference and respect, on pain of any rude or unruly member being subject to such fine as the majority of the society shall set, not exceeding ten *shillings*, or even of expulsion, if such majority shall think proper. The president shall also have power to call a meeting of the society, on convenient notice, in such manner as he shall think best.

## IV. *Of the VICE-PRESIDENT.*

In the absence of the president, his duties and authority shall devolve upon the vice-president, who shall be supported by the members in the exercise of such duties and powers. The vice-president is to sign and allow of all orders on the treasurer, for the payment

of all sums of money not exceeding fifty dollars to be distributed or paid, between any meetings of the society for charitable purposes or otherwise : but if the money shall be ordered to be paid by the majority of the society, the treasurer shall be authorized (in case of the vice-president's refusal to sign the order) to pay the same on a certified copy of the vote of the society, signed by the secretary. The vice-president shall have the custody of and control over the common seal, unless in case of a vote of the majority of the society, when he shall be obliged to affix or permit the seal to be affixed. He shall also direct (with the concurrence of the president, if the president chooses to interfere) the place of meeting at either the quarterly or annual meetings of the society ; and shall send timely notice to the secretary of such place, which shall be within the city of Philadelphia. The vice president shall not sign, or the treasurer obey, any order for a sum of money exceeding fifty dollars, without the same shall be directed to be paid by a majority at a quarterly or annual meeting.

#### V. *Of the* TREASURER.

The treasurer shall have the custody of all the papers, money, goods, and effects (except the book of minutes and other papers, directed to remain with the secretary) belonging to the society ; which he shall safely preserve and keep for their use. He shall pay all orders drawn by the vice-president, or in pursuance of the order of the society as aforesaid ; and shall manage the stock to the best advantage, for the benefit of the society. He shall keep fair and regular books of accounts during his administration, and shall render a true account of all monies and effects received by him belonging to the society ; which account shall be liable to the inspection and control of the majority of the society, who shall and may approve or disallow any charges or disbursements therein contained. At the end of his year he shall deliver over to the succeeding

treasurer, all the books, money, papers and property, which he had received belonging to the society ; and shall give bond to the president and vice-president (who shall be trustees of the same for the use of the society) in double the value of the society stock, conditioned for his, the said treasurer's, faithful observance of all the rules of the society relative to his duty. The said treasurer to be excused in case of fire, or other unavoidable accidents. The treasurer shall also collect all fines incurred by any members and account for the same, and shall be allowed any expense he may be at in the collection thereof.

## VI. *Of the SECRETARY.*

The secretary shall provide a book, wherein he shall fairly and regularly enter all the rules and regulations of the society, with a register of the names of the members, and carefully minute down and record all the proceedings of the society, at any of their meetings. He shall make out the certificates of admission of the members, summon the society or cause them to be summoned by notice to the members resident in the city and advertisements in two (at least) of the public news-papers, when directed by the president or vice-president as aforesaid, receive all petitions for charity and deliver them to the president, vice-president, or stewards, and keep an account of the distribution directed to be made of all monies, and generally do all the writing and necessary business of the society, which from time to time shall occur : and shall deliver over to his successor all the minutes and papers which he shall have in his custody : and shall be allowed and paid by the treasurer all his reasonable expenses incurred in the service of the society. The secretary shall also, after every meeting, furnish the treasurer with a list of fines due from any members.

VII. *Of the STEWARDS or committee of eight.*

The committee shall with the consent of the president, vice-president, and treasurer, or any two of them, distribute any sum or sums in charities, between the times of quarterly meetings, provided such distribution does not in the whole exceed fifty dollars or twenty-five dollars to any one person. They shall distribute no charity but to the brethren of the society, and to Englishmen or sons of Englishmen or their widows and children, nor shall any be entitled thereto, but such as are not entitled to receive relief from the overseers of the poor of this city, unless such relief shall appear to them insufficient : they shall provide entertainments for the society and settle the bills on all public occasions.

VIII. *Of the MESSENGER.*

The messenger shall be directed by the treasurer and the secretary, who shall employ him to carry the notices to the members of the society, and to collect in the fines and quarterly contributions, he shall also attend on public occasions and receive such salary or compensation for his trouble as the vice-president, treasurer, stewards and secretary, shall think adequate.

IX. *Of officers dying, or refusing to serve.*

If any of the officers of the society should happen to die or remove out of the state, others shall be chosen in manner aforesaid, to serve the remainder of the year ; and if any member be chosen an officer, and refuse to serve, he shall forfeit and pay to the society stock five dollars, and if any officer be necessarily absent at any meeting another shall be chosen *pro hac vice* in his room, unless the officer next in degree shall be present, as in that case he shall do his own and the duty of the officer absent.

## X. *Of the MEETINGS of the society, and the EXPENSE thereof.*

The society shall have stated quarterly meetings, one whereof shall be their annual meeting on St. George's day; and special meetings when the same shall be directed by the president, vice-president, or stewards, with the concurrence of the president, or vice-president. The quarterly meetings to be on every the twenty-third days of January, April, July and October in every year, unless either of the said days shall happen on a Sunday, then the said meetings shall be held on the next succeeding day. Twelve dollars to be paid towards the expenses of quarterly meetings and thirty dollars to be paid towards the same purpose on St. George's day out of the society's stock. Every resident member absenting himself from a quarterly meeting shall pay to the treasurer the sum of one dollar as a fine for such absence at a quarterly meeting and one dollar and fifty cents for absenting himself from an annual meeting. That any member of the society wishing to invite a stranger to the anniversary dinner, shall submit the name of the gentleman to be invited, to at least two of the stewards who on approving thereof are hereby empowered to direct the secretary to issue the card or cards of invitation, on condition that the member soliciting the card shall declare the visitor to be eligible to become a member of the society, and engaging to discharge his proportion of the expense of the day.

## XI. *Of DISTRIBUTING the SOCIETY STOCK.*

Not above one-fourth of the stock which shall appear to be in the treasurer's hands as the annual settlement of his accounts, shall be distributed in charities or otherwise, the next succeeding year. As the society's views, are as well to give relief to each other, as to render assistance to distressed Englishmen, and contemplating

that any member of this society may at some future period (however flourishing or calm his present situation in life) be plunged into distress by unavoidable, accidental misfortune, assistance to such unfortunate member ought as well to be attended to, as succouring the unhappy stranger; and as the society do not proceed upon narrow principles, but will assist their poor countrymen in a way which will be also advantageous to the community, artificers and manufacturers coming into this state and being natives of England or sons of Englishmen, shall be encouraged and assisted by the society, more abundantly than these poor people who are not of any trade or calling. At least two-thirds of the society stock shall be put to interest or invested in bank or public stock, by the treasurer. The securities for the same or sums so lent to be taken in the name of the president or vice-president, and it shall be expressed on the back of the bonds or securities that the money lent is the property of the society, which endorsement shall be signed by the president or vice-president. No sum above fifty dollars shall be given in charity to any one person or family without the express order of the majority of the society present at a quarterly or special meeting and generally the distribution and disposal of all sums above fifty dollars must be left to the future judgement of the society, who will determine according to the state of the funds.

XII. *Of the DEPARTMENT of the MEMBERS, during the time of doing business.*

No member, while the president is in the chair, shall interrupt the business by talking on any other subject than that then before the society, on pain of forfeiting (being reprimanded for the first offence) the sum of fifty cents for the second offence.



### XIII. *Of the COLLECTING the FINES and QUARTERLY PAYMENTS.*

All fines and quarterly payments to be paid to the treasurer or messenger on demand, and delinquents to be reported to the next quarterly meeting; and if after notice by direction of a quarterly meeting, they refuse or neglect to pay before the next quarterly meeting, he or they so neglecting or refusing, to be deemed no longer a member or members of the society, until he or they shall pay the arrears due, and at a quarterly meeting give a reasonable excuse for his or their neglect or refusal. But if any member shall be delinquent in the due payment of his fines and quarterly payments for the space of four quarters next after they shall become due and demanded as aforesaid, and that the now payment thereof was not owing to his absence, he shall be struck off the list of members by the secretary, and no longer admissible into the society but by a new election.

### XIV. *Of the expulsion of members, and the mode of altering the foregoing rules.*

No member to be struck off the society's list unless at least twenty persons be present at the meeting, (except in the case declared in the foregoing rule) and a majority of the members present at a quarterly or annual meeting may alter or add to the rules of the society, provided that such majority shall not consist of less than twenty-five members, and provided also that such alterations or additions shall be proposed at the quarterly meeting previous to the meeting at which such alterations and additions are to be considered.

**T**HE foregoing is a true copy of the present Rules and Constitutions of the Society of the Sons of St. George, &c. as revised and altered at different times from the original rules, formed on the first establishment of the Society on St. George's day, the 23d April, 1772.

GEORGE DAVIS, Secretary.

Philadelphia, April 24, 1797.

LIST of the MEMBERS of the Society of  
the Sons of St. George, established at Phila-  
delphia.

## A

\*Anstie ———, London  
Anderson Samuel  
Armat Thomas  
Ashley John

Bettin Dr. Samuel  
Billington Thomas  
\*Blight capt. George,  
Topsham  
Bullock Joseph  
\*Burnett James  
Blight Peter  
\*Blight Capt. Isaac, Top-  
sham  
\*Bond Phineas  
\*Broomhead  
Brown William (Distiller)  
\*Brown William

## B

Bache Richard  
\*Bache Theophilact, New-  
York  
Bache Benjamin Franklin  
\*Badcock Daniel, New-  
York

Baring Charles  
\*Barclay Robert, London  
Barron John  
\*Barret Edward, Jamaica  
Bass Dr. Robert  
\*Beckworth George  
Bell William  
Bell Joseph

## C

\*Carter Rev. John, Bar-  
badoes  
Chance William (Stroud)  
\*Chapman Henry  
Collins Arthur  
Compston Thomas  
Cook John

Coulthard William  
\*Cox John  
Curwen Capt. George  
Cutbush Dr. Edward

F

Fell Richard  
Footman Richard  
\*Foster Nicholas  
\*Franklin Temple  
Furze John

D

Dallas Alexander J  
Davis George  
\*Davison Alexander, Que-  
beck  
Davy William  
\*Dickason Thomas (Bos-  
ton)  
Dobson George

G

\*Gale Samuel, New York  
Gatliff Samuel  
Gilchrist Charles  
\*Glover John, New-York  
Goodwin George  
\*Gower———  
\*Greaves William, Leeds  
Griffith Robert E  
Grubb James

E

## I

Inston John

## H

- \*Hammond George, London
- \*Hancock Joseph, London
- Hare Robert
- Harland John
- Harrison George
- \*Haughton Wm. James, New-York
- \*Hayton Amos, London
- Hazlehurst Isaac
- Hazlewood Capt. John
- \*Henry Dr. Thomas
- Heysham Robert
- Heysham Capt. William
- Holderneffe William
- Huddle Joseph
- Humphreys Asheton
- Humphreys James
- \*Hyde John, New-York

## J

- Jackson William Major
- \*James Benjamin (London)
- Jennings John
- Joyce Dominick

## K

- Kerr Walter
- Ketland Thomas
- Ketland John
- King Ezekiel

L

Lardner John  
Lardner William  
\*Lifton Robert (His Excellency)  
Ludlam George  
Lupton John

N

Nailor William  
Nicklin Philip  
North Richard

M

\*Macdonald Thomas  
\*Maize Mathew, Bristol  
Mather Richard  
\*Maurice Theodore, London  
\*Mawby Capt. Thos. 18  
Regt.  
Mayo John  
\*Micklethwait John,  
Leeds  
Miniffe Charles  
\*Montreson John, London  
Morris Robert  
Morris Robert, jun.  
Morton John Pollard  
Murgatroyd Thomas

O

Ord Capt. George



## P

Page William  
 \*Parry Edward, London  
 \*Pemberton Dr. Wm.  
     21 Regt.  
 \*Penn John, jun.  
 Peyton Edward  
 Philips Henry  
 \*Philips Waller  
 \*Pilmore Revd. Joseph  
 Pollard William  
 Poyntell William  
 Price Samuel  
 Price Joseph  
 Price Thomas

## R

\*Rauson Jeremiah (Hali-  
     fax)  
 Reynolds James  
 Ricardo Joseph  
 \*Rich Henry Pye  
 \*Roberts Daniel, London  
 Roberts Michael  
 Rundle Richard  
 Rundle George

## Q

## S

Sanderfon John P  
 \*Scott ———  
 \*Shepherd William  
 \*Sherbrook Miles, New-  
     York  
 \*Sherman Robert, Lon-  
     don  
 Sims Buckridge  
 Sims Joseph  
 \*Skyren John  
 \*Smith Thos. jun. (Not-  
     tingham)  
 Smith James B  
 Smith Thomas  
 Smyth Frederick  
 \*Snell William  
 Standley William

\*Stanbury Joseph, New-York

\*Startin Charles, N. Y.

\*Stewart Lord Henry

\*Stoughton John

\*Sutcliffe Joshua

Swanwick John

V

Vancouver Charles

Vaughan John

T

Taylor James B

Tingey Capt. Thomas

Thompson John

\*Thornton Edward

Travis John

\*Tyler John

W

Waddington John

\*Wake Drewry, New-Jersey

Wallace Burton

Walker Simon

\*Watson Joseph

Westcott George

West Thomas

White Willm. (Right Revd.)

Whitefides John

Wignell Thomas

Willcocks Samuel

Wilson John

\*Wild William (Manchester)

\*Witcherhead John (Maryland)

\*Wolstoncroft Charles

U

X

Z

Y

Young Charles

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OFFICERS ELECTED, APRIL, 1797.

*President*

Isaac Hazlehurst

*Vice-President*

Richard Rundle

*Treasurer*

Philip Nicklin

*Secretary*

George Davis

*Stewards*

John Travis

Robert E Griffith

John Vaughan

Doctor Edward Cutbush

Thomas Ketland

John Waddington

Thomas Compston

Joseph Bell

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